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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-36(Canceled).

37(New). A metallic cylinder head gasket with at least one opening corresponding to a combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine, comprising a functional layer and a support ring lying thereunder, said functional layer including a full bead, the support ring including a full bead which is adjacent to the functional layer, and where said support ring includes at least one further bead which is arranged on a side of the full bead of said support ring oriented away from said at least one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

38(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 37 wherein said at least one further bead comprises a half bead.

39(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 38, wherein said support ring lies on the side of the half bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber on a level lower than on the side of the half bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

40(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 38, wherein said support ring lies on the side of the half bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber on a level higher than on the side of the half bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

41(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 40, wherein said support ring on the side of the half bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber is spaced at a predetermined distance from said functional layer.

42(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 40, wherein said support ring on the side of the half bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber is in contact with said functional layer.

43(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 37, wherein said at least one further bead comprises a full bead.

44(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 43, wherein said support ring on the side of said full bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding

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to the combustion chamber lies on the same level as the side of said full bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

45(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 43, wherein said support ring lies on the side of said full bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber on a level lower than on the side of said full bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

46(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 43, wherein said support ring lies on the side of said full bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber on a higher level than on the side of said full bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

47(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 46, wherein the said support ring on the side of said full head oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber is at a distance from said functional layer.

48(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 46, wherein said support ring on the side of said full bead oriented away from the combustion chamber is in contact with said functional layer.

49(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 43, wherein said support ring on the side of said full bead oriented away from the combustion chamber is adjacent to the functional layer.

50(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 43, wherein a tip of said full bead is directed downwards.

51(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 43, wherein a tip of said full bead is directed upwards.

52(New). A metallic cylinder head gasket with at least one opening corresponding to a combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine, comprising an upper functional layer, a support ring and a lower functional layer, wherein said support ring is arranged between said upper functional layer and said lower functional layer and is adjacent to said lower functional layer, said upper functional layer includes a full bead which is adjacent to said support ring, and said lower functional layer including at least one further bead

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which is arranged on the side of the full bead oriented away from the said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

53(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 52, wherein said at least one further bead comprises a half bead.

54(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 53, wherein said half bead is so formed, that said lower functional layer lies on the side of said half bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber on a level higher than on the side of said half bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

55(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 54, wherein said lower functional layer on the side of said half bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber is in contact with said upper functional layer.

56(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 54, wherein said lower functional layer on the side of said half bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber is spaced at a predetermined distance from said upper functional layer.

57(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 54, wherein said half bead is so formed, that it is equal in height to said support ring.

58(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 53, wherein said half bead is so formed, that said lower functional layer lies on the side of said half bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber on a level lower than on the side of said half bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

59(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 52, wherein said support ring extends from a bead foot of said full bead of said upper functional layer oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber up to a bead foot of said at least one further bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

60(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 52, wherein said support ring extends from a bead foot of said full bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber over and above a bead foot of said at least one

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further bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

61(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 52, wherein said support ring extends from a bead foot of said full bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber up to a bead foot of said at least one further bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

62(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 52, wherein said at least one further bead comprises a full bead.

63(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 62, wherein said full bead is so formed, that said lower functional layer lies on the side of said full bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber on the same level as on the side oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

64(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 62, wherein said full bead is so formed, that said lower functional layer lies on the side of said full bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber on a level higher than on the side oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

65(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 62, wherein said full bead is so formed, that said lower functional layer lies on the side of said full bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber at a distance spaced from said upper functional layer.

66(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 62, wherein said lower functional layer on the side of said full bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber is in contact with said upper functional layer.

67(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 62, wherein said full bead is so formed, that said lower functional layer lies on the side of said full bead oriented away from said at least one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber on a level lower than on the side oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

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68(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 62, wherein a tip of said full bead is directed downwards.

69(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 62, wherein a tip of said full bead is directed upwards.

70(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 62, wherein said support ring extends at least from one bead foot up to the other bead foot of said full bead.

71(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 62, wherein said support ring extends from a bead foot of said full bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber up to a bead foot of the at least one further bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.

72(New). Cylinder head gasket according to claim 62, wherein said support ring extends from a bead foot of said full bead oriented towards said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber up to a bead foot of the at least one further bead oriented away from said at least said one opening corresponding to the combustion chamber.